



MINISTERIO DE DEFENSA
Y DE SEGURIDAD PUBLICA
REPUBLICA DE EL SALVADOR. C. A.

San Salvador, October 24th, 1990

The Honorable John Joseph Moakley
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Moakley,

I read with great interest your statement of 18 October regarding Major Buckland's second affidavit on the Jesuit Case. I also believe that in indeed Major Buckland made another statement, no matter how credible the information might be, it is important that it be given to the Salvadoran Judicial Authorities.

On the one hand, if the information were true, it might be have provided new elements to the investigation. On the other hand, if the information were false, it might help in the assessment of the crebility that Major Buckland deserves as a witness in this case.

I would like to explain you that really that information is faulse for the following:

Col. Carlos Aviles, according to the information, came to see Col. Benavides 10 days before of the assesination of the Jesuit Priests, which would be around the 6th of November. However, Col. Aviles was in New Orleans from Oct. 31st to Nov.14th, returning to El Salvador just two days before the tragic murders at the UCA. Col. Aviles will send you a photocopy of his passport.

The above will be sufficient to démonstrate, in fact, the falsness of the affidavit of Major Buckland, because Col. Aviles cannot be in two different places at the same time. But there exist other reasons that put in doubt the affidavit's credibility, such as the following:

- a) If I had prior knoweledge of what Col. Benavides is said to have planned, I would have gone personally to speak with him or I would have called him to my office -his office is less than two hundred meters from mine. It is not logical that in such a serious matter I would have sent any intermediary.
- b) In any case it would have been logical to have sent either a superior or a person who had the condifence of Col. Benavides. Col. Aviles was a subordinate in years of service to Col. Benavides, and the two were never friends.





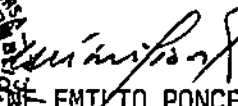
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- c) If I sent someone, I would have sent someone from Operations and not from Psychological War, as in the case of Col. Aviles.
- d) The Chief of the Special Unit of the Investigative Commission of Delinquent Acts, Lt. Col. Manuel Antonio Rivas, has not seen the video nor the declarations that were mentioned.
- e) Obviously, if I had any suspicions that Col. Benavides had become unbalanced to the point of thinking of such an atrocious crime as the assassination the Jesuit Priests, I never would made him on November 13th, Chief of Security of the Army Complex, that comprises of the Ministry of Defense, the National Direction of Intelligence, the Military School, the High Command and the UCA.

Mister Moakley, we all want to see justice done in the Jesuit Case. Any information that helps clarified this matter is welcome. As you know, we have been and will continue assisting judge Zamora in his investigations.

Sincerely,


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Minister of Defense
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